



Contracting with Urgent Care Clinics as PCMPs

November 2015

In a memo dated December, 2014, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) reiterated its position that providers not traditionally considered to be primary care providers may qualify to contract as Primary Care Medical Providers (PCMPs) within the Accountable Care Collaborative program (ACC).

In order to contract as a PCMP, providers must meet particular requirements as outlined in the PCMP Contract, including:

- The provider must be an individual, clinic or other group practice with **a focus** on primary care, general practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics, or obstetrics and gynecology. **Please note that a provider may focus on other clinical areas, as well, but their practice model must include an element of primary care;**
- The provider must act as a dedicated source of primary care for Members and be capable of delivering the majority of the Members' comprehensive primary, preventive, and sick medical care.

Regional Care Collaborative Organizations (RCCOs) are charged with validating a provider's suitability to contract as a PCMP. As part of this process, RCCOs confirm that providers meet the above requirements as well as those outlined in Exhibit B, Medical Home Model Principles, of the Base RCCO Contract.

The Department recognizes and accepts that, within these guidelines, certain "nontraditional" providers may qualify as PCMPs. To date, examples of nontraditional providers who are contracted as PCMPs include Community Mental Health Centers, family planning services providers, school-based health clinics, and urgent care clinics.

This policy allows for the consideration of urgent care clinics as PCMPs; however, it is incumbent on the RCCOs to validate each distinct site based on its own merits and operational circumstances. It is clear that most urgent care clinics do not incorporate a practice model that is appropriate for contracting as a PCMP, but unique situations do arise and certain clinics may meet the criteria for enrollment in the program.

This policy makes no changes or additions to the Department's guidance clarifying the PCMP definition, and urgent care clinics should be evaluated under that policy.

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